

DOINGS OF CONGRESS

WHAT OUR NATIONAL LAW MAKERS ARE CONSIDERING.

Some of the More Important Work of the National Congress—Bills That the Committees Report Favorably Upon—Washington Topics.

Senator Pettus, of Alabama, has introduced a number of amendments to the Puerto Rican bill, which include free trade for the island and the reduction of the President's power over the revenue.

Secretary Root has submitted to Congress a recommendation that the extra services performed by War Department employees during the war with Spain be paid for by an appropriation aggregating \$85,394.

The Hawaiian Government bill has passed the Senate without a division, for an amendment had been defeated to pay Queen Liliuokalani \$250,000 for the crown lands.

In the House the Democrats have scored their first victory of the session by preventing consideration of the committee report on the Aldrich-Lobbs contested election case from Alabama. Two Republicans voted with the Democrats.

Senator Penrose has made a favorable report from the Committee on the bill diminishing the number of appraisers at the ports of Boston and Philadelphia. The bill provides for one appraiser at each port instead of two, as at present, and for salaries of \$4,000 instead of \$3,000.

The Senate Committee on Finance authorized a favorable report on the bill authorizing redemption or allowance for revenue stamps that have been spoiled or destroyed.

The Puerto Rican Tariff bill, amended so as to reduce the tariff from 25 per cent. to 15 per cent. and limiting its life to five years, has passed the House by a vote of 172 to 161. Six Republicans voted with the opposition against the bill, and four Democrats voted with the Republicans for it. Each side made herculean efforts to get out a full vote, six members being brought from beds of sickness to vote.

HOLDS A SECRET

And It is Worth \$200,000 in Wall Street.

Wall street is in the vortex of the greatest gamble that has characterized speculation since the birth of the Stock Exchange. Big operators and the bucket-shop "pickers" are all guessing as to the next dividend that will be declared on the 36,968,000 of common stock of the Sugar Trust.

There is only one man who knows precisely what is going to happen at the next meeting of the directors of the company, and he trusts no one. That man is Henry O. Havemeyer, President of the Sugar Trust. The meeting does not take place until March 10, and in the next ten days fortunes will be lost and won.

Mr. Havemeyer so wills the dividend can be passed, and the price of the stock will possibly drop 20 points. Or he can declare the regular quarterly dividend of 2 per cent., and the stock will jump 30 or 40 points. President Havemeyer has been quoted as saying that the trust made no money during 1899. During that year, however, it paid in dividends \$7,023,920.

In 1896 the Sugar Trust produced 99 per cent. of the sugar consumed in this country. It now controls 70 per cent. of the total production. These are President Havemeyer's own figures. The Arbuckles barely produce 5 per cent. and the independent 25 per cent. On this basis when the Arbuckles force the trust to sell at a losing figure the trust loses fourteen times as much as its smaller rival.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Latest News From the Active Business World.

A strike at the Montreal Cotton Company's mill at Valley Field, Quebec, by which 2,000 operatives were affected, has been settled, the men getting an advance of 5 per cent.

The Liggett & Myers branch of the Continental Tobacco Company, at St. Louis, has granted 100 feeders an increase in wages amounting to 31 per cent., or \$2.50 per week each.

Cigar manufacturers at Tampa, Florida, will establish a factory, at which cigar boxes will be manufactured. Advance in prices of cigar boxes is the incentive.

The Republic Iron and Steel Company has decided to observe the Weekly Pay law of Indiana, and 5,000 workmen will go back to work.

The eleven big iron and steel mills in Indiana owned by the Republic Iron and Steel Company have closed down indefinitely, on account of the recent filing of suits in Muncie to enforce the weekly pay law. Over 5,000 men become idle.

The Rodman Manufacturing Company, of Wickford, Rhode Island, dose skin manufacturers, have announced a 10 per cent. wage increase to their 500 employees.

The yardmen and trainmen of the Cleveland Terminal and Valley Railway have decided to ask for an increase in wages.

Porto Rico Conditions.

The people of Puerto Rico are showing signs of discouragement at the failure of Congress to provide a government for the island. The local Spanish papers have printed many articles criticizing the American government and the American people and policy. The army and navy officers gave a ball there on the evening of Washington's Birthday, issuing invitations to many Puerto Ricans. The editor of El Diario stated in his paper that he did not feel that he could attend American celebrations nor observe American holidays until the American people chose to recognize the people of Puerto Rico by giving them a government, and thus lifting them from the commercial mire from which they have sunk. The local papers join in declaring that the present conditions are worse than during the darkest days of the Spanish regime.

REPORT ON TRUSTS.

The Industrial Commission Makes Some Recommendations.

The Industrial Commission has submitted to Congress a preliminary report on trusts and industrial combinations, together with testimony, review of evidence, charts showing effects of prices, etc. The Commission makes the following recommendations, based on such information as it now has:

Promoters and organizers of corporations or industrial combinations which look to the public to purchase or deal in their stocks or securities should be required to furnish full details in regard to their business necessary for safe and intelligent investment. Any prospectus which fails to give this information or which gives false information should be held legally responsible. The nature of the business, together with the powers of the various officers, should be expressed in the certificate of incorporation, which should be open to inspection.

Directors or trustees of a corporation, it is said, should be required to report to the members thereof its financial condition in reasonable detail at least once each year.

The Interstate Commerce Commission, it is declared, should be given authority not only to prescribe the methods of keeping accounts of the railroads and to demand reports in such detail as it may require, but also to inspect and audit said accounts. It also says the Interstate Commerce Commission should be authorized to make rules for freight transportation.

The report says that it is difficult to state accurately the amount of over-capitalization of the various combinations. The following, however, gives a fair estimate on this point of the concerns mentioned under the head of "Over-capitalization."

American Sugar Refining Company, capitalized at twice the amount (\$75,000,000) of cost of reconstruction of plants.

Standard Distilling and Distributing Company, six times the actual cash value of the plants.

National Steel Company, double the value of plants.

National Biscuit Company, double the value of plants.

American Steel Hoop Company, double the value of plants.

American Steel and Wire Company, double the value of plants.

International Silver Company, 55 per cent. over-capitalized.

National Shear Company, five times more than cash value.

The Standard Oil Trust, it will be noted, is not included in the list of companies "over-capitalized."

SOCIALIST MAYORS.

They Visit New York City and Make A Good Impression.

Mayors Chase, of Haverhill, and Coulter, of Brockton, Mass., have just been the guests of the Social Democratic Club, at Manhattan Lyceum, in New York. They are the only Socialist Mayors in the United States, and Socialist Labor men are rejoicing greatly over their visit. They promise to make another visit next year, bringing with them more Mayors and other public officials of the same creed. They are both Americans by birth, young in years and intelligent. Mayor Chase says that he remembers the time when people laughed at the pretensions of Socialists, and said they would never be able to win an election. Yet he has been elected twice, and the second time was chosen over a combination of Republicans, Democrats and Prohibitionists.

"It used to be predicted," he said, "that our movement would be a thing of the past before we sent a single Socialist to the Legislature. Well, we have two members to our party in the State House of Massachusetts, and we have, besides, six men on the Municipal Board of Haverhill—a town with 40,000 population—and three in the Municipal Board of Brockton, which is a centre of the shoemaking industry like my town, and has a population of about the same size. I'm a cool headed Yankee, but I tell you it's growing like wild fire. Haverhill and Brockton and the surrounding towns are full of Socialism, and other places are catching on rapidly."

CASUALTIES.

A Montreal express on the Canadian Pacific Railroad jumped the track between Ponty Pool and Burketon, Ontario, March 3, and bounded down a steep embankment, the coaches toppling over each other as they neared the bottom of the incline. Twenty-three passengers were injured, none of them seriously.

Six persons were burned to death and two were injured March 4 in a fire in the seven-story lodging house at 44 to 48 Bowers, New York.

The steamer Walcott, of the Pacific Steam Whaling Company, is missing. She left Seattle for Unalaska, by way of Sitka, Valdes and Cook Inlet, December 28, and has not been heard from since.

By the giving way of the floor of a mine caviare Feb. 26, in the Mount Pleasant Mine, near Scranton, four men were precipitated 300 feet to the bottom of the shaft and instantly killed.

IN KENTUCKY.

Two Governments, Each Claiming to be Legal, Now Exist.

Two State governments, completely officered, and each claiming to be the regular and legal officials are in Frankfort, Ky., and will remain, each claiming the right to administer the affairs of State until the question is adjudicated in the courts. As anticipated the banks refuse to recognize either of the contending factions and as a result both are without money, and the State funds are as securely tied up as they could be. Legislators county as well as State officials, and all kinds of contractors with the State will have to wait until somebody is authorized by a decision of the court to pay them, and the State will have to wait on what is due it until the courts say who is authorized to receive it. The Democratic State officers have opened offices in the State Hotel.

Nearly all the New England granite cutters have struck to enforce a demand for eight hours work, with a minimum price of \$3 per day. The movement involves about 8,000 men.

Events of the Week Told in a Few Words.

Forty-three and one-half inches of snow in sixty hours is the new record established in New York State by the recent storm, that amount of snow falling at Rochester.

The United States Government has purchased a site of a hundred acres in Portsmouth, six miles from Newport, Rhode Island, as a coaling station.

The British second class cruiser Hermes is reported off Cat Island, in the Bahamas, with her shaft broken. Recent murders near Letohatchie, Alabama, have roused the whites and blacks, and race trouble is imminent.

The Cuban delegates who came to Washington to protest, on behalf of the Cuban people, against the appointment of Mgr. Sparetti as Roman Catholic Bishop of Havana, have failed in their mission.

The War Department has received a cabled statement showing that the total receipts from the Philippine Islands for February, 1900, were \$426,423, of which amount \$357,000 was derived from customs.

The winter herring fishery in Newfoundland waters has been a complete failure, and thirty American vessels have left St. John's without obtaining cargoes.

In a revolt in the prison at Cairo, Egypt, the mutineers were obliged to fire upon the mutineers in order to restore order. Five men were shot, two of them fatally.

Edinburgh University is to confer the degree of LL. D. on Ambassador Choate.

The Portland, Me., Board of Trade has emphatically endorsed the views expressed by Congressman Littlefield against the Puerto Rican bill, and praised him for his "courageous stand" in the matter.

An unusually heavy fall of snow has occurred in Northern New York, in some places the snow being two feet deep the level.

Mrs. Anna Jory, aged 76 years, has been found dead at her home in Baltimore. Escaping lightning gas from a leaking tube was the cause of her death.

A San Juan de Puerto Rico despatch says that four troops of the Fifth United States cavalry are under orders to return to the United States and that native troops are being recruited to fill their places.

Steps to erect a monument over the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Abraham Lincoln, were taken at a meeting of the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Association in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Wednesday.

An appropriation of \$100,000 has been made by the Kentucky Legislature to be used in detecting and convicting the assassin of Governor Goebel.

Ex-Mayor Hugh J. Grant has been appointed receiver for the New York Third Avenue Railroad Company upon the application of the Old Colony Trust Company of Boston, the Directors consenting to the application.

The finding of an empty mail pouch near a Long Island City dock disclosed the theft of registered mail, and a discharged carrier who is missing is suspected by the authorities.

Frederick Kahler, a dealer in books, in Philadelphia, has been sentenced by Judge Finletter, in the Criminal Court, to one year imprisonment for selling copies of Daudet's novel, "Sapho."

The completion of a deal whereby the Erie telephone system, the largest Bell system in the United States, passes into the hands of the Telephone, Telegraph and Cable Company of America, has been announced. The Erie Company controls five branches operating in North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Arkansas, Texas and a part of Ohio and employs \$22,000,000 capital.

Two more white persons and eight Kanakas have died of the bubonic plague at Noumea, New Caledonia.

There were three deaths from the plague at Honolulu on the 19th ult., the first for twelve days.

Lent will be observed more strictly than usual in Germany, owing to the death of the mother of the Emperor.

Robert Johnson, at one time proprietor of a large dry goods store in New York, and who was worth \$2,000,000 twelve years ago, had a wonderful escape from death by fire in a house in which he was living by the courtesy of a trust company that had foreclosed a mortgage on it.

General Otis has purchased from the Spanish Government and turned over to the navy two small gunboats and a transport.

Marcus Daly testified in Washington that he has no feeling against Senator Clark, of Montana, but he admitted contributing heavily to the anti-Clark fund.

Kentucky's State Election Board has issued certificates of election to the six democratic candidates for minor State offices, but the republican incumbents refused to vacate the places.

Minority stockholders in the H. C. Frick Coke Company are trying to annul the contract with the Carnegie Steel Company.

Heirs to the Venecia estate in Cuba, have presented to the State Department, through an attorney, a claim for \$400,000 for damages to the property during the Cuban insurrection. The claim is based on a clause in the Paris peace treaty.

Milton Rathbun, of Mount Vernon, N. Y., broke his fast of thirty-five days Feb. 26, during which time his weight has been reduced from 207 to 164 pounds.

Lieutenant Governor Woodruff has returned to Albany, jubilant over the results of his Western trip. He is now planning a Southern trip. He has been invited to deliver an address before the American Club, of Pittsburg, and has accepted.

POLITICAL.

Mr. Clark paid big money to purify the politics of Montana, and Mr. Daly paid big money for the elimination of Mr. Clark as the best means to the same end. And still virtue commands a high premium, in Montana.

The Industrial Trust Company, of Providence, capital \$1,000,000, will absorb the Pacific National Bank and the First National Bank of Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

The lockout at the piano and organ factories of Chicago, which has kept 3,500 men out of employment for thirteen weeks, has been raised. The former employees will be taken back without discrimination. The manufacturers say that they will talk over the question of wages and hours with the men after work has been resumed.

A fish combine has been formed by forty of the wholesale houses of Boston and other points on the New England coast, under the title of the Boston Fish Company. The authorized capital is \$5,000,000.

The Mexican government has granted a concession to Chicago capitalists of one million acres of valuable land fronting on the Gulf of Mexico and lying in the State of Tamaulipas.

The bricklayers and plasterers of Pensacola, Florida, have begun a strike for an advance in wages from \$3 to \$3.50 per day, which the contractors have refused.

Chicago labor unions have announced that the Building Trades Council will declare against the rules adopted by the contractors' associations, and order a general strike if any attempt is made to enforce them.

The striking blacksmiths at the Brooks Locomotive Works at Dunkirk, New York, have returned to work, having been granted an increase of 10 cents per day.

CRIMINAL.

In an alley in the rear of Pearl street, Philadelphia, above Twentieth, the dead body of Hugh Dugan, 12 years old, was found in a pool of blood. His body and clothing bore marks of violence, and his death, it is thought, resulted from internal hemorrhage. Charles Weisenborn, 18 years old, a baker, with whom the dead boy had quarreled, was arrested, and, it is said, confessed to the police that he had beaten the boy a few hours before the body was found.

Winfield S. G. Walker shot Margaret Davis and then committed suicide in Philadelphia Feb. 4. Miss Davis, whom he was to marry, is not dangerously wounded.

Henry Smith has been convicted in the Superior Court at Macon, Ga., of mayhem and sentenced to life imprisonment. Smith and his wife boarded with Mrs. Susie Hillard, but on account of not paying board Smith was sent away, Mrs. Hillard keeping the young wife. Smith went to the house on December 9, and, on being refused permission to see his wife, dashed acid in Mrs. Hillard's face, permanently blinding her.

William F. Miller, of Franklin syndicate fame, has been located in Canada, and is under police surveillance.

FIRE RECORD.

The Corry Opera House at Corry, Pa., was destroyed by fire March 4. The loss is \$40,000.

The Western Union Tannery, at Spartansburg, Pa., was burned, entailing a loss of \$80,000.

The extensive avil plant of the Hay-Budden Company, occupying three buildings in Brooklyn, were destroyed by fire March 4, the loss being about \$80,000.

The postoffice at Ivan, Michigan, has been burned, and Herbert Bates, the postmaster's son, perished in the flames.

During a fire Feb. 27, in Clarion, Pa., which destroyed \$150,000 worth of property, ex-Judge W. W. Barr dropped dead from excitement.

A portion of the Minetto Shade Cloth Company's plant at Minetto, a suburb of Oswego, New York, was destroyed by fire Feb. 26. Loss \$200,000.

The Theatre Francaise and five business places in Montreal were burned Feb. 26. Loss about \$100,000.

Franz Thielmann's summer garden, in Chicago with its palm house, stage and other buildings, has been burned. The loss is estimated at \$50,000.

Fire in Bangor, Northampton county, Pa., destroyed Milton Flory's flour mill and other property, the aggregate losses being estimated at \$50,000.

NEW YORK MARKETS.

Table with columns for Flour and Grain, Produce, and Fruit and Vegetables, listing various items and their prices.

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Advertisement for The People's Bible History, featuring an image of a man pointing and text describing the book's value and availability.

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